

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 27, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman
Representative Ryan Bourriaque, vice chairman
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst
Robin Stalder, attorney
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 123 by Senator Abraham**

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 123, which authorizes the use of certain state property in Cameron Parish for seafood farming.

Representative Bourriague offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 123 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 123 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Butler, Carrier, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 422 by Senator Cortez

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 422, which authorizes the transfer of state property in Lafayette Parish.

Mr. Mark Becnel, Krewe of Bonaparte, 701 Robley Drive, no city or state provided, (337) 344-8989, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 422.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 422 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 422 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 by Representative Robert Owen

Representative Robert Owen presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which provides relative to charter fishing guides and commercial fishing.

Mr. Richard Fischer, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, 4409 Meadowdale Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (985) 691-3474, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 55.

Mr. Blake Canfield, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, 12th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3024, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 55.

Mr. Robert Baumann, Hood Baumann, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 328-0330, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 55.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 55.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, pending the receipt of a fiscal note. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13, which request the Department of Environmental Quality to study strategies for recycling plastic containers.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove references to "containers", so the resolution addresses plastic generally rather than solely plastic containers.
- (2) Remove a provision regarding plastic containers attracting vermin and disease-causing bacteria.
- (3) Remove a provision regarding bottle deposit programs.
- (4) Add new language regarding the department exploring innovative strategies that have proven successful in other jurisdictions.
- (5) Modify a provision to indicate that a flourishing plastic recycling effort, rather than a stream of plastics, would further make the construction and operation of advanced recycling facilities economically feasible.

- (6) Add that advanced recycling, in addition to recycling facilities, would create jobs and economic opportunity.
- (7) Add stakeholders to those entities the department should consult when studying strategies to increase plastic recycling.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Keli Williams, Louisiana Beverage Association, P.O. Box 83632, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, (225) 767-1898, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 27 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 27, which re-creates the Department of Environmental Quality.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 27 and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "LDEQ Brief Overview".

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 27 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 398 by Representative Duplessis

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 398, which increases the maximum civil penalties assessed by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 398.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 398 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 398 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 778 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 778, which provides relative to hydraulic fracturing.

Mr. Mike Moncla, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 388-9525, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 778.

Mr. Tommy Faucheux, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, no phone number provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 778.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 778. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 778 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 399 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 399, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Division of Administration, office of state lands, no address provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 399.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 399 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 399 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wheat offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jean-Paul P. Coussan
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: